

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01166 140711Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----097408 140836Z /16
R 140330Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9849

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1166

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, UR, SN
SUBJECT: SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 1069

1. SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER N.P. FIRYUBIN BEGAN A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE ON MARCH 8. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET MFA OFFICIALS MR. YURI KUZNETZOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEPARTMENT, AND MR. ANATOLY DRUIKOV, ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER.

2. MR. FIRYUBIN'S SCHEDULE INCLUDED CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, AND A DINNER HOSTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. SUBSTANTIVELY, PRIMARY ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON SINGAPORE'S PUBLIC HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATES PROGRAMS, WITH BRIEFINGS AT THE HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND JURONG TOWN CORPORATION, AND TOURS OF A HOUSING ESTATE AND OF THE JURONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

3. THE VISIT WAS GIVEN RELATIVELY LOW-KEY TREATMENT BY THE GOS, BY SINGAPORE MEDIA, AND BY THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES. THE SCHEDULE LARGELY INVOLVED PROTOCOL CALLS AND FORMAL BRIEFINGS. PRESS COVERAGE WAS BRIEF AND CONFINED TO THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE STRAITS
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TIMES ; TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS FAIRLY COMPLETE, BUT SIMILARLY LOW-KEY, WITH NO SPECIAL PROGRAMMING. THIS APPEARS TO COINCIDE WITH THE SOVIET DESIRE TO PRESENT THE VISIT IN ESSENTIALLY BLAND TERMS. ON ARRIVAL MR. FIRYUBIN WAS QUOTED AS DESCRIBING THE VISIT AS PART OF A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE USSR AND SINGAPORE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, AND CONCLUDED WITH THE USUAL LITANY THAT RELATIONS BE-

TWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE ON THE BASIS OF THE "SACRED PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY, AND INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE FIRYUBIN VISIT WAS "NOTHING SPECIAL," BUT WAS INDICATION OF CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE ADDED THAT THE 70-YEAR OLD FIRYUBIN HAS MADE A NUMBER OF TRIPS TO THIS AREA OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN LOW ON SPECIFICS, IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE MET THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE (REFTEL) OF "MAINTAINING A BALANCE" VIS-A-VIS HIGH LEVEL U.S. VISIT. IT ALSO UNDERLINES ONCE AGAIN THE CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IN SINGAPORE IN PARTICULAR.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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